

## WENT TO THE KLONDIKE

Details Given by Chief Ogilvy of the Canadian Survey.

## ALL IN BRITISH TERRITORY

The New El Dorado Was Discovered About Two Years Ago and There Was a Sudden Rush for the Diggings—Gold Belt Is of Indefinite Width and 300 Miles Long.

Ottawa, Ont., July 21.—Now that the Dominion government is in possession of authentic reports corroborative of the first accounts sent out of the marvelous richness of the new placer diggings in the Yukon and Klondike regions, the organization of the district is being completed.

Two years ago the department of the Interior dispatched a force of twenty Northwest mounted policemen to Fort Yukon, on the Canadian side of the Alaskan frontier. The officer in command, Inspector Connelley, established two posts, one at Chukchi and the other at Forty Mile Creek, and proceeded to administer laws and collect revenues for the customs department. He collected about \$15,000 the first year. Encouraged by the prospect of revenue, the government, in 1895, appointed D. W. Davis, a former member of Parliament from Alberta, to the position of customs officer for the district, and his return, recently arrived, attested the total collections in Yukon to about \$30,000.

This work of organization was first suggested to the government by the North American Trading and Transportation Company, which was anxious that the British territory should be administered so as to guarantee the safety of its interests. It was not undertaken by the Dominion authorities, however, until the summer of 1896, when the field had more or less definitely located the 141st meridian of west longitude, which forms the boundary between Alaska and the Canadian Northwest Territories from Mount St. Elias to the shores of the Arctic. When this had been accomplished, the collection of police posts began, and from the Seattle and other American coast news papers reached the ears of the government here. It was hardly charged that the Canadians were grabbing territory in Alaska that did not belong to them.

William Ogilvy, chief of the Canadian International Boundary Survey, set all doubts at rest as regards the Canadian posts by reporting that the observations of the Canadian and American parties as to the boundary differed but a few feet—sixty feet at Forty Mile camp and six at Chukchi, since the Canadian more has been heard of the alleged gap.

Ogilvy stayed in the country all last winter and busied himself staking off claims for the miners on the newly discovered placer grounds, the latter being well in Canadian territory, as the creeks or rivers flow into the Yukon from the east, namely, Bonanza, Boulder, El Dorado, Carmate, Klondike and Stewart. Of the mounted police who formed Connelley's first detachment, not one remained upon the expiration of their terms this spring. So that as a larger force had to be sent up this spring. It was not expected that men would continue to work for the government for \$1 a day when wages all around them were \$10 to \$15. Five of the returned policemen are reported to have brought \$20,000 as the result of mining during the last winter.

Connelley's last report, which only reached the department today, says that he is building a third post at the mouth of Klondike river, which flows into the Yukon on the east side, about fifty-three miles southeast of Forty Mile. He has asked for a larger force. In this his suggestion has been anticipated as well as in the appointment of a gold commissioner, while a Pacific coast firm is being negotiated with for the supply of a steam launch to ply as a police boat between Klondike, Forty Mile and Chukchi. Ogilvy was ordered to return to Alaska last fall, but instead he determined to remain in the country and forward a full report to the government of his doings, from which were made the following extracts:

"Starting from here, say December 1, it would be February before I reached Ottawa, and during that time I would be in the country, and would be exposed to the same hardships and some hazards from storms. The journey has been long, and I would not hesitate to undertake it were things more reasonable here and our food plentiful, but it would take at least \$1,000 to equip us with transport and outfit, which sum I think I can easily raise on the interest of the country by remaining here and making a survey of the Klondike—a misapprehension of Indian word or words 'Thon dah' or 'dick', which means plenty of fish, from the fact that it is a famous salmon stream.

"It is a curious thing on our maps. It joins the Yukon from the east, a few miles above the site of Fort Reliance, about fifty miles above here. The discovery of gold in the branches of this stream, I believe, was due to the reports of the Indians. A white man named J. W. Carmate, who was here in 1887, was the first to take advantage of the rumors and locate a claim in the first branch, which was named by the miners Bonanza Creek. Carmate located his claim late in August, but had to cut some logs for the mill here to get a few pounds of provisions to enable him to begin work on his claim. He returned with a few weeks' provisions for himself, wife, and brother-in-law (Indians), in the last of August, and immediately set about working his claim.

"The gravel itself he had to carry in a box on his back from 30 to 100 feet. Notwithstanding this, three men were very irregularly washed out \$1,200 in eight days, and Carmate asserts with reason that had he had proper facilities it could have been done in two days.

"A branch of Bonanza named El Dorado has prospered immensely, and another branch named Forty Mile Creek has prospered well. There are about 17 claims staked in the main creek, and the branches are good for about as many more, aggregating, say, 350 claims, which will require over 1,000 men to work properly.

"A few miles further up Bear Creek enters Klondike, and it has been prospecting and located on. About twelve miles above the mouth of Bear Creek, Gold Bottom Creek joins Klondike, and on it and a branch named Humber Creek very rich ground has been found. On Gold Bottom Creek and branches there will probably be two or three hundred claims. The Indians have reported another creek, much further up, which they call 'Too Much Gold Creek,' on which the gold is so plentiful that, as the miners say in joke, 'You have to mix gravel with it to slide it.' Up to date nothing definite has been heard from this creek.

"From all this we may, I think, infer that we have here a district which will give 1,000 claims of 500 feet in length each. Now, 1,000 such claims will require at least 3,000 men to work them properly, and as wages for working in the mines are from \$8 to \$10 a day,

without board, we have every reason to assume that this part of our territory will in a year or two contain 10,000 souls at least.

"For the news has gone out to the coast, and an unprecedented influx is expected next spring. And this is not all, for a large creek called Indian Creek joins the Yukon about midway between Klondike and Stewart rivers, and all along this creek good gold has been found. All that has stood in the way of working it heretofore has been the scarcity of provisions and the difficulty of getting them up there when here. Indian Creek is quite a large stream, and it is probable it will yield five or six hundred claims.

"Further south yet lie the heads of several branches of Stewart River, on which some prospecting has been done this summer and good indications found, but the want of provisions prevented development. Now gold has been found in several of the streams joining Pelly River, and also all along the Hootlaik. In the line of these finds further south are the Casar gold fields, in British Columbia, the prospecting of which have led to territory along the easterly watershed of the Yukon a gold-bearing belt of indefinite width and upward of 300 miles long, exclusive of the British Columbia part of it.

"Good quartz is also reported on the head around Bonanza Creek, but of this I am not able to speak more fully after my proposed survey. It is pretty certain, from information I have got from prospectors, that all, or nearly all, of the northerly branch of White River is on our side of the border, and copper is found on it. I have also seen a specimen of silver ore, which was taken up in a creek flowing into Bennett Lake, about fourteen miles down it, on the east side.

"When it was fairly established that the Bonanza Creek was rich in gold, there was a great rush from all over the country adjacent to Forty-mile. The town was almost deserted. Men who had been in a chronic state of drunkenness for weeks were pitched into boats as ballast and taken up to stake themselves a claim, and claims were staked by men for their friends who were not in the country at the time.

In his last report Ogilvy says: "The reports from the Klondike region are still very encouraging, so much so that all the other creeks around are practically abandoned. Some of the claims are so rich that every night a few pans of dirt suffice to yield a few dollars. The town was almost deserted. Men who had been in a chronic state of drunkenness for weeks were pitched into boats as ballast and taken up to stake themselves a claim, and claims were staked by men for their friends who were not in the country at the time.

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## PIONEERS TO THE KLONDIKE.

Hardships of Two Prospectors Who Went There in 1891.

New York, July 21.—"I first heard of the great gold fields on the Klondike in October, 1891," said a New York man, who recently returned from Alaska. "I was then in Juneau, and while there I met two prospectors who had just returned from the now famous gold fields. They showed me \$10,000 worth of the precious metal, and an account of the way they had gathered the entire lot in twenty days. At the same time they were not over-enthusiastic about the Klondike. In fact, they vowed that they would not go back there for one hundred times \$10,000.

"They had only twenty days in which to make their fortune, and when I met them they were getting ready to go to South Africa. They declared that the hardships they had endured in reaching the gold fields were almost beyond belief. They carried all their tools and supplies on their backs, and it took them six weeks to make the journey. In that time they were obliged to swim the Yukon river no less than twenty times, and as the water was cold all the year around, the task was not a pleasant one. When they reached the gold fields they found that there had only twenty days in which to make their fortune before they must start on the return trip. During that time they managed to gather up the \$10,000 worth of gold which they showed me. The journey back lasted six months also, and when the miners reached Juneau they said they were completely exhausted."

## THE RUSH TO THE GOLD LANDS.

Fear That a Famine in Dawson City May Result.

San Francisco, July 21.—Tales of sudden wealth in Alaska continue to be told by returning miners, and the rush to get to the gold fields before the winter sets in is as fierce as ever. The steamer Portland sails tomorrow, the Mexico leaves on Sunday and the City of Topeka on July 28. None of these vessels has any room left for passengers.

Everyone who wants to get to the Klondike and has not engaged passage on one of these boats must wait for the August teats, and that means that he will reach the diggings just as the terrible Arctic winter is about to freeze everything up solid for six months. Those who have now will not get to the Klondike until there is famine to be destitution and perhaps famine in Dawson City this winter.

The Alaska Commercial Company will fill with provisions the steamer of the steamship Excelsior, which sails from Seattle for St. Michael on July 28. The company hopes to rush into Dawson all the food possible for four months. A famine may occur there before the ice breaks up in May or June next. President Gloss says that unless the food supply is large the inhabitants will die "like rats in a trap," for the only way out is on snow-shoes to Juneau, thence by mail to exposure cannot make that trip.

Had the Klondike Fever.

A Party of Gold Hunters Arrested by New York Police.

New York, July 21.—Fourteen men and boys who suffered with the Klondike gold fever were lined up before Magistrate Kullgren in the Harlem police court this morning. The party had been caught while stowed away in empty freight cars in a train bound for Albany, and they declared that they were bound for the Alaska gold fields. Among the prisoners were Elmer Tweetch and August Horpe, who said they were traveling for Clarence Cole, a prospector. They were discharged and the others were fined \$2 each.

FROM NEW YORK BY STEAMER.

A Party Going to Alaska Via the Cape Horn Route.

Cleveland, O., July 21.—W. B. Fasig, a prominent business man, says he and one hundred other New York business men and speculators have chartered a steamer in New York. The boat will leave New York in September, and go by the way of Cape Horn to San Francisco. The party will join it at San Francisco and go to Alaska in the spring.

"Last summer one of our grandchildren was sick with a severe bowel trouble," says Mrs. E. G. Gregory, of Fredericksburg, Va. "We tried Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy, which gave very speedy relief." For sale by Henry Evans, Wholesale and Retail Druggist, 938 F street northwest and Connecticut avenue and S street northwest and 1428 Maryland avenue northeast.

## AMERICAN SIDE HAS GOLD

New Fields May Eclipse Those of the Klondike.

## JUST ACROSS THE BORDER

Craze Seizes San Francisco Women, Who Seem More Eager Than the Men to Get to the Diggings—Passage on Steamships Engaged Weeks Ahead.

San Francisco, July 21.—The office of the Alaska Commercial Company was packed to suffocation yesterday with a jostling throng of men and women who wished to engage passage to Klondike.

Every berth on the steamship Excelsior, the last to leave via the Yukon River route, had been taken several days ago, but still people came, some offering several hundred dollars for tickets. The women seem more eager than the men. Many will go to the Yukon.

Miss Bessie Thomas, a pretty woman of twenty-four has engaged passage on the Excelsior. In order to augment the capital with which she purposes to embark in business, she yesterday ordered the sale of her furniture and jewelry.

She intends to start a restaurant on the Klondike or speculate in mining claims. When the steamer Excelsior leaves for St. Michael's next Sunday she will carry all the miners' supplies she can hold. The Excelsior will be the last steamer to sail this year from San Francisco to connect with Yukon steamers, but there is already talk of chartering another steamer to take up a crowd of miners.

F. G. H. Bowker, one of the returned Yukoners, who brings back nearly \$40,000 in gold dust, the result of six months' work, is authority for the statement that on the American side the international boundary placer fields have been found which even put those of the Klondike into the shade.

When his party was descending the Yukon on the return from Dawson City the steamer was intercepted by a party of Indians who had been sent to send the party to civilization. This man was one of a party who had gone down the river from Dawson in the hope of locating rich beds of which Indians in the vicinity had been telling. The members of the party were well known to the Yukoners and full credence is given to the story.

Bowker and his associates were told that just across the Alaska boundary, on the American side, the party had found placer fields fabulously rich in gold. They had staked out claims and began to work them.

"Every one of us has taken out thousands of dollars in dust and nuggets already," said Bowker's informant, "and there seems no limit to the gold in sight. It is more abundant than on the Klondike and easier to work, the gold being very near the surface of the ground. We are all rich already, but we are going to stay through next winter."

Further information was conveyed that there were only white men in the new district, and they had the field practically to themselves. They advised Bowker and his company to forsake the Klondike claims and return from the States and take claims in the new diggings.

The point at which the fortunate treasure hunters are working is northwest of Dawson, and but a few miles west of the boundary. Their claims are in a valley of one of the numerous creeks emptying into the Yukon.

The returned Yukoners place great faith in the information given them concerning the "strike," and several have announced that when they return they will stop at the new diggings.

Seattle, Wash., July 21.—The rush for accommodations on steamers going to Alaska continues unabated. The Portland will leave Seattle today with 150 persons, fifty of whom will go first-class. There was only room for five stowage passengers left last night, and all first-class passengers had been taken. The Portland will try to make two trips before the rivers close.

The steamer Mexico sails next Sunday, and already has a full passenger list. The City of Topeka sails July 28, and she has no room left. The Alaska leaves August 2, and many applications have already been received. Eastern and local capitalists are forming a company in this city for the purpose of building an ocean-going steamer that will sail from Seattle to St. Michael's, and connect with a light draught river steamer, which is to be a part of the company's property. The capital stock of the company is \$200,000. Twenty-five thousand dollars were subscribed last night. All the boats which sail from Seattle this month are full, which means that any one who wants to go to the Klondike must wait for the August boats.

People talk about the journey of 7,000 miles as if it were walking across the street. They don't realize what the Yukon is. They will need a map to convince them.

From several other districts came similar reports. These could not all be exaggerations. If half were true, it shows that this spring and summer's prospecting has uncovered many new bonanzas."

Dr. J. C. Kelley, about twenty-two years old, arrived here with \$24,000 in gold dust. He went up last year, found a good claim, and, with the help of another miner, cleaned up a modest fortune.

GOING TO THE GOLD FIELDS.

Two Washington Young Men Preparing to Grasp a Fortune.

Two enterprising young men who are determined upon reaching the gold fields of Alaska are Mr. Fred G. Calvert, of No. 10 N street northwest, and Mr. William Sawyer, of No. 243 Elm street, Le Droit Park.

Mr. Calvert is an engineer and surveyor and was preparing to join the Geological Survey for exploring the territory of Alaska when the news came of the discovery of gold in the Klondike region. Mr. Sawyer is a telegrapher in the Washington Loan and Trust Building, and the two have planned to make an early start for the North in order that they may reach the Klondike before winter sets in and begin prospecting, so as to be in readiness in the spring.

them of the truth that the country of the Yukon and its tributaries in Alaska and British America is as large as the whole of the United States east of the Mississippi; that it is larger than the British Empire before the war, the Berlin Sea and the mouth of the Yukon, and that by the time they strike the Yukon the Alaskan Arctic winter will be upon them. By September 25 the weather settles and the Yukon River is frozen solid until next May.

The expense of getting from Chicago to Seattle is \$60, and from Seattle to the Bering Sea is \$150. There will be thousands of Western men who will go, but, of course, the coast people expect every thing in their favor. One thing must be remembered, that the Klondike country is in British America and will be governed accordingly.

One of the most important letters that has thus far come from the Klondike gold fields reached this city this afternoon. It is dated Dawson City, June 15, and is signed by Henry R. Sibley, an experienced prospector, and is addressed to O. A. Schade, a prominent Seattle merchant.

In it Mr. Sibley says: "I started on the trip with pretty hard luck, for I lost all of my outfit in the way of the steamer Excelsior. I got a new outfit at Juneau, and I reached Dawson City June 10. As I left Seattle on March 15, I was nearly three months on the road. I rather enjoyed the trip. There was some hard work, but I had no complaint after leaving Juneau. There is no night here, it is as light as day. I got the twenty-four hours, and neither too warm nor too cold. This is a great mining strike—probably the greatest on the American continent or in the world. I know you will not believe me when I tell you that I have found gold. The placer fields in great paying quantities except on two creeks. Some of the pay streaks are nearly all gold. One thousand dollars to the pan is not an uncommon thing, and as high as 100 ounces have been taken out at a single pan.

"It is not uncommon to see men coming in with all the gold dust they can carry. You would not believe me when I tell you that I went into one cabin and counted five five-gallon cans full of gold dust, but it is a fact. It is the result of the work of two men during the winter, and the dust is not much more than half worked out. There has been \$2,000,000 worth of gold dust taken out so far in the district. At a low estimate, there will be \$50,000,000 taken out during the next year. I went to work as soon as I got here for \$10 a day, because all the rich claims were taken.

"I have to get located on a paying claim myself. Some of the saloons take in from \$2,000 to \$3,000 a day. All pay is in gold dust and nothing less than fifty cents. A glass of beer costs fifty cents, and I don't drink money. There are plenty of provisions here. Flour is \$12 per 100 pounds, and other provisions are accordingly high. Charles Kimball of Seattle is taking in from \$300 to \$500 a day. There are about 1,000 people in the neighborhood of the town. Most of them live in tents, but some good buildings are being put up."

The Indians of the Yukon country are a lawless and pestiferous people, and go so far as to murder, never giving the prospectors any trouble.

The Alaska Commercial Company is extensively engaged in mining in the vicinity of Juneau, and the successful development of mines in that district has attracted hundreds of miners. In the Haver mining district, at Juneau, the Tradewind and Mexican mines are producing well, and the mines in the Silver Bow Basin have made profitable returns. The Juneau Mining Company has in operation several quartz stamp mills driven by water power.

The cost of crushing about \$1.75 per ton. The Stamp Creek mine is a profitable ledge, producing both silver and gold. The Sundani mines, fifty miles south of Juneau, have been developed during the last two years and are paying.

The Bonanza Mining Company is operating about sixty miles northwest of Juneau. These mines comprise a group of thirty locations, situated about three miles from the sea coast, and connected there by a narrow-gauge railroad two and a half miles long, and a wire tramway from the terminus of the railroad to the Comet mine, and a horse-drawn gravity road from the Comet mine to the mill. The mill is of forty stamps, with a capacity of 120 tons per day, and the ore is gold bearing to a high grade. The major portion of the gold is recovered in the batteries and on the plates, and the balance is concentrated in over 100 vanners. The company is made up of Boston and New York capitalists, and is capitalized at \$1,000,000.

The Sitka mining district, on Baranof Island, contains large deposits of gold-bearing quartz rock, on which a number of mining claims have been located, and development work commenced. On the property of the Lucky Chance Mining Company, stamp mills have been erected, and the output has been satisfactory.

The mining property of the Apollo Consolidated Mining Company is located on Unalaska Island, one of the Aleutian group, situated 1,000 miles west of Sitka. This company has an unlimited amount of gold-bearing quartz rock favorably located near the water front of Unalaska Bay. By the expenditure of a large amount of capital and labor this mine has been developed to such a condition that it is operated with great economy and large profit. Its monthly production is about \$30,000. About 120 men are employed at the mine throughout the year.

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## ALASKA FILLED WITH MINES

Gold Found Everywhere in the Yukon River Valley.

## PLENTY OF IT NEAR JUNEAU

Large Deposits of Auriferous Quartz Rock in the Sitka District—All But the Placers in the Territory Operated by Companies—Indians Never Trouble the Prospectors.

Alaska is dotted with mines. In 1895 the governor of the Territory said: "The valley of the Yukon River is without doubt the most extensive field of placer mines discovered since the finding of gold in California. The precious metal has been found at various places in the valley of this river, covering a distance of 800 miles. The great obstacles to successful mining in this district is the shortness of the season for actual work and the perpetually frozen ground. The earth requires to be thawed with fire before it can be mined. With these difficulties to contend with, good prospects do not always yield favorable results. Notwithstanding these unfavorable conditions, the long, cold winters and the long distance from the base of supplies, the Yukon country is destined to be a prolific gold producing district."

In 1895 there about 1,500 miners living in that region. Gov. Sibley says: "The gold mines are distant 1,000 miles from Sitka, the capital of the Territory, with no way to reach there but by going over the mountain pass on foot and float down the river in a canoe, and that during only one-half of the year. This condition renders it impracticable for the civil government of the territory to exercise any authority in the district. The placer gold miners are an honest, industrious and intelligent body of men, who never permit a crime to go unpunished, or a good deed unrewarded."

The Indians of the Yukon country are a lawless and pestiferous people, and go so far as to murder, never giving the prospectors any trouble.

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The Bonanza Mining Company is operating about sixty miles northwest of Juneau. These mines comprise a group of thirty locations, situated about three miles from the sea coast, and connected there by a narrow-gauge railroad two and a half miles long, and a wire tramway from the terminus of the railroad to the Comet mine, and a horse-drawn gravity road from the Comet mine to the mill. The mill is of forty stamps, with a capacity of 120 tons per day, and the ore is gold bearing to a high grade. The major portion of the gold is recovered in the batteries and on the plates, and the balance is concentrated in over 100 vanners. The company is made up of Boston and New York capitalists, and is capitalized at \$1,000,000.

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The mining property of the Apollo Consolidated Mining Company is located on Unalaska Island, one of the Aleutian group, situated 1,000 miles west of Sitka. This company has an unlimited amount of gold-bearing quartz rock favorably located near the water front of Unalaska Bay. By the expenditure of a large amount of capital and labor this mine has been developed to such a condition that it is operated with great economy and large profit. Its monthly production is about \$30,000. About 120 men are employed at the mine throughout the year.

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